A noun is a word that names a person, a place, a thing, or an idea.

A common noun is a general name.

A proper noun names someone or something particular.

A concrete noun names an object that occupies space or that can be recognized by the senses.

An abstract noun names an idea, a quality, or a characteristic.

Singular nouns name one person, place, thing, or idea. Plural nouns name more than one.

A collective noun names a group.

The possessive form of a noun indicates possession, ownership, or the relationship between two nouns.

Grade 7 Ruby and Diamond
Lesson 1 Grammar Activity

Nouns

Key Information

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A. Identifying Nouns

Underline all the nouns in the sentences below.

1. When Alfred Nobel was born in Stockholm in 1833, his father had a reputation as an inventor.

2. Like his father, Alfred taught himself much of what he learned, and by the time he was a young man, his knowledge was extraordinary.

3. In his family's factory, which produced munitions for the Russian army, Alfred became fascinated by explosives.

4. When the end of the Crimean War brought a reversal to the clan's fortunes and one of his brothers was killed in an accident involving explosives, Nobel went to the United States.

5. He worked long and hard to produce an explosive (dynamite) that would not accidentally explode causing tragedies like the one that had killed his youngest brother.

6. Throughout his life, Nobel wanted to encourage positive instead of destructive forces.

7. He gave generously to many worthwhile causes and helped finance young people's educations.

8. After his death, Nobel's fortune was used to establish a series of annual Nobel Prizes awarded by committee in the fields of physics, chemistry, physiology or medicine, literature, and peace.

B. Using Nouns

From the sentences above, list four examples of each of the following.

1. (proper nouns) __________________________

2. (collective nouns) __________________________

3. (concrete nouns) __________________________

4. (abstract nouns) __________________________

5. (possessive nouns) __________________________
# Pronouns

## Key Information

**Pronouns** take the place of nouns, words acting as nouns, or other pronouns. **Personal pronouns** refer to specific people or things.

- *She* sold *them* to us.

Personal pronouns that indicate possession or ownership are **possessive pronouns**. They take the place of the possessive forms of nouns.

- *My* worry is *yours*, too.

**Reflexive pronouns** refer to nouns or other pronouns and indicate that the same persons or things are involved.

- The gave *themselves* a treat.

**Intensive pronouns** add emphasis to other nouns or pronouns.

- The leg itself was broken.

**Indefinite pronouns** refer to persons, places, or things in a more general way than nouns do.

- Each of the major harbors along the Atlantic seaboard has a unique character.

**Demonstrative pronouns** (this, that, these, and those) point out specific persons, places, things, or ideas.

**Interrogative pronouns** (who, whom, whose, which, and what) form questions.

**Relative pronouns** begin subject-verb groups called subordinate clauses. Relative pronouns include who, whom, whose, which, that, what, whatever, whomever, whichever, and whatever.

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Pronouns</th>
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<td>Personal</td>
<td><em>She</em> sold <em>them</em> to us.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Interrogative</td>
<td>Who, whom, whose, which, and what</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Relative</td>
<td>Who, whom, whose, which, that, what, whatever, whomever, whichever, and whatever</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Identifying Pronouns

Underline all the pronouns in the sentences below. Above each pronoun, identify it as **Per.** (personal), **Poss.** (possessive), **Ref.** (reflexive), **Inten.** (intensive), **Dem.** (demonstrative), **Inter.** (interrogative), **Rel.** (relative), or **Ind.** (indefinite).

1. The evil that men do lives after them.—Shakespeare
2. Adversity introduces a person to himself.—Anonymous
3. You can tell the ideals of a nation by its advertisements.—Douglas
4. None preaches better than the ant and she says nothing.—Franklin
5. The only thing we have to fear is fear itself.—Franklin Roosevelt
6. He who flees from trial confesses his guilt.—Syrus
7. God helps those who help themselves.—Sydney
8. What is history but a fable agreed upon?—Napoleon
9. He laughs best who laughs last.—English proverb
10. Logic is logic. That’s all I say.—Holmes
11. Have a place for everything and have everything in its place.—Anonymous
12. All that is not prose passes for poetry.—Crabbe
13. Not all are free who scorn their chains.—Lessing
14. Art! What comprehends her?—Beethoven
15. The only question is: “Is it true in and for itself?”—Hegel
Action Verbs

**Key Information**

A verb is a word that expresses action or a state of being. An **action verb** tells what someone or something does.

- The dog **caught** the ball in its teeth.
- How she **yearned** to own such an animal.

A **transitive verb** is an action verb that is followed by a word or words (known as the direct object) that answer the questions **what?** or **whom?**

- The cat **trailed** us home. *(Us is the direct object.)*
- An **intransitive verb** is an action verb that is not followed by a word that answers the question **what?** or **whom?**

- The cat **trailed** behind us. *(Behind us tells where.)*

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**Identifying Transitive and Intransitive Action Verbs**

Underline the action verbs in the sentences below. Write **T** above each action verb that is transitive and **I** above each one that is intransitive. (Some sentences contain more than one action verb.)

1. Many people regard polo as a sport only for the rich.
2. The game probably originated in Persia, now Iran, sometime between the sixth and second centuries B.C.
3. It then spread to Turkey, India, Tibet, China, and Japan.
4. In the nineteenth century British army officers in India frequently played the game.
6. Enthusiasts in the United States first played the sport indoors.
7. Even today some polo players prefer the indoor or arena version of the game to the outdoor version.
8. In indoor polo three players play on each team; teams of four play the outdoor game.
9. In tournament play, players have handicaps.
10. Polo players ride fast and nimble horses, and they ride with a tight knee-grip and tight reins.
11. Generally the players own a string of several polo ponies.
12. The ponies often require a year of special training.
13. The players of one team hit a rubber ball through their opponents’ goal posts.
14. They hit from the saddle with flexible, long-handled mallets.
15. The game includes four or six periods, or chukkers, each 7 1/2 minutes long.
Lesson 2 – Essay writing

Write an essay entitled “The day I lost my temper”

Suggested Outline
1. Are you usually good or bad tempered?
2. What happened that day?
3. Who were the people involved?
4. Did you do anything to make up for losing your temper?

Vocabulary

Awakened on the wrong side of her bed – woke up feeling bad-tempered
Gritted my teeth – put up with a difficult situation
The last straw – the event that pushed the limit
Brat- a child who behaves badly
Sobbing – crying
Lesson 3 – Reading Comprehension

The Happy Princess

Once upon a time, high above the city, on a tall column stood the statue of the Happy Princess. She was gilded all over with thin leaves of fine gold. For eyes, she had two bright sapphires, and a large red ruby glowed on her dress. She was very much admired indeed.

“Why can’t you be like the Happy Princess?” asked a mother of her little boy who was crying for the moon. “The Happy Princess never dreams of crying for anything.”

“I am glad there is some one in the world who is quite happy,” muttered a disappointed man as he gazed at the wonderful statue.

One night there flew over the city a little swallow. Its friends had migrated to Egypt for the winter because it was much warmer there. As it was about to stretch its wings to join its fellow friends, a large drop of water fell on it. “What a curious thing!” it cried, “there is not a single cloud in the sky, the stars are quite clear and bright, and yet it is raining!” Then another drop fell, and a third drop fell, and it looked up and saw – Ah! What did it see? The eyes of the Happy Princess were filled with tears, and tears were running down her golden cheeks. Her face was so beautiful in the moon light and the swallow was filled with pity.

“Who are you?” the swallow enquired.

“I am the Happy Princess.”

“Why are you weeping then?” asked the puzzled swallow, “you have quite drenched me.”

“When I was alive and had a human heart,” answered the statue, “I did not know what tears were, for I lived in the Palace of Great Happiness where sorrow was not allowed to enter. In the daytime, I played with my companions in the garden, and in the evening I led the dance in the Great Hall. Round the garden ran a very lofty wall, but I never dared to ask what the world was like beyond it. Everything about me was so beautiful. My courtiers called me the Happy Princess, and elated I was indeed. So I lived, and so I died. Now that I am dead they have set me up here so high that I can see all the ugliness and all the misery of my city. Even though my heart is made of lead, I cannot choose but weep.”

“Far away,” continued the statue in a low voice, “far away in a little street there is a poor house. One of the windows is open, and through it I can see a woman seated at a table. Her face is thin and worn, and she has coarse, red hand, all pricked by the needle, for she is a seamstress. She is rushing to make a lovely silk gown for the Queen’s maid of honour to wear at the ball tomorrow. On the bed, her little boy is ill. He has a fever, and is asking for oranges. His poor mother had nothing to give him so he is crying. Swallow, swallow, little swallow, will you give her the ruby from my dress? My feet are fastened to this pedestal and I cannot move.”
“My friends are waiting for me in Egypt where it is warmer,” said the swallow. However, the Happy Princess looked so sad that the little swallow finally relented. So the swallow picked out the great ruby from the Princess’ dress and flew away with it in its beak over the roofs of the town. At last it came to the poor house and looked in. The boy was tossing feverishly on his bed, and the mother had fallen asleep because she was so tired. In the little swallow hopped and laid the great ruby on the table beside the woman’s thimble. Then it flew gently round the bed, fanning the boy’s forehead with its wings. “How cool it is!” said the boy, “I must be getting better,” and he sank into a delicious slumber.

Then the swallow flew back to the Happy Princess, and told her what it had done. “It is curious,” it remarked, “but I feel quite warm now, although it is so cold.” “That is because you have done a good deed,” said the Happy Princess. Then, the little swallow fell asleep at the statue’s feet.

When the swallow awoke the next day, it found the Princess’ eyes rimmed with tears again. “Swallow, swallow, little swallow,” said the Princess. “Far across the city I see a young man in a garret. He is leaning over a desk of papers. He is trying to finish an architecture project for the mayor of the town, but he is too cold to think anymore. There is no fire in the grate and hunger has made him faint. Alas! I have no ruby now; my eyes are all I have. They are made of rare sapphires and are worth a lot of money. Pluck out one of them and take it to him. He will sell it to the jeweller, buy food and firewood, and finish his work.”

“Dear Princess,” said the swallow, “I cannot do that!” and it began to weep. However, after much persuasion, the kind-hearted bird finally obliged the Princess’ wish and performed the set task. On the third day, the winter was getting bitterly cold and the swallow decided that it must leave without further delay even though it was reluctant to bid farewell to its dear friend. The statue, however, made another request. “In the square below, there stands a little match-boy. He has dropped his matches into the gutter, and they are all spoilt. His father will beat him if he does not bring home some money, and he is crying. He has no shoes or stockings, and his little head is bare. Pluck out my other eye, and give it to him, and I shall be eternally grateful to you.”

So the little bird plucked out the Princess’ other eye, and darted down with it. It swooped past the match-boy, and slipped the jewel into the palm of his hand. “What a lovely piece of glass!” cried the little boy and he ran home laughing.

Then the swallow went back to the Princess. “You are quite blind now,” it said, “so I will stay with you always.” Then the little swallow slept at the Princess’ feet. In the following days, the little bird told the Princess of all that it saw in the town and continued to pluck off leaf after leaf of the fine gold from the Princess’ body to help the destitute until the statue was quite dull and grey. Nobody admired the Happy Princess anymore for she had lost all her former gloss, but the Princess was contented deep inside to know that she had brought some happiness to the needy.

Then the snow came, and after the snow came the frost. Long icicles like daggers hung down from the roofs of houses and the poor little swallow grew colder and colder. At last, it knew it could no longer escape the clutches of Death. It had just enough strength to fly up the Princess’ shoulder once more before it finally laid to rest. At that moment, a curious crack sounded inside the statue, as if the Happy Princess’ heart had broken. Under the force of an internal fissure, the statue finally gave way and the Happy Princess was no more.

(adapted from Oscar Wilde’s short story, ‘The Happy Prince’.)
Answer the following questions. You are recommended to answer them in the order set. Mistakes in punctuation, spelling and grammar may be penalised in any part of the paper.

From paragraph 1:
1. Why was the Happy Princess very much admired? [2]

From paragraph 2:
2. (a) Why did the swallow’s friends migrate to Egypt for the winter? [1]

(b) How did the Happy Princess account for her tears? [3]

From paragraph 3:
3. What was the Happy Princess’ request? [1]

From paragraph 4:
4. Where did the breeze experienced by the boy come from? [1]

From paragraph 5:
5. What was the real reason behind the fact that the swallow felt warm even though the weather was cold? You must answer in your own words. [2]

From paragraph 6:
6. According to the Happy Princess, what would the architect do with the sapphire? [2]
From paragraph 7:
7. (a) Why was the swallow reluctant to carry out the Happy Princess’ wish? [1]

(b) What had happened to the little match-boy? [2]

(c) Why was the little match-boy crying? [1]

From paragraph 8:

From paragraph 9:
9. Why was the little swallow unable to join its friends in Egypt in the end? You must answer in your own words. [2]

From the whole passage:
10. Choose five of the following words or phrases. For each of them give one word or short phrase (of not more than seven words) which has the same meaning that the word or phrase has in the passage. [5]

1. gazed (line 9) –
2. lofty (line 26) –
3. tossing (line 43) –
4. slumber (line 47) –
5. faint (line 56) –
6. obliged (line 61) –
7. destitute (line 76) –
8. fissure (line 84) –